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(54) Title: METHODS OF COLLECTING AND TRANSPORTING VAGINAL DISCHARGE FOR DETECTION OF INFECTIOUS ORGANISMS AND TO FACILITATE CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method of testing for the presence of infectious disease agents or host genetic markers comprising applying a device comprising an absorbent and porous material onto the introitus of a female patient; encouraging air drying of at least a portion of the collected vaginal discharge while the device is proximate to the introitus; and determining the presence of infectious disease agents or host genetic markers in the at least partially dried vaginal discharge.